



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

111 Liberty St., Suite 111
Columbus, Ohio 43215
www.morpc.org

**MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
CENTRAL OHIO GREENWAYS BOARD MEETING
HYBRID MEETING**

November 20, 2024, 10:00 -11:30

AGENDA

- 1) **Welcome and Introductions:** *Mike Andrako, FCEO*
- 2) **MORPC Updates – MORPC Staff**
 - **Summit on Sustainability Awards**
 - Leadership in Mobility Award was presented to Mike Andrako for contributions to regional trail development.
 - The Collaborative Achievement in Sustainability Award was presented to the Trail Towns Working Group for efforts in advancing trail accessibility and community engagement.
 - **Legislative Update – Kyle Probert, MORPC**
 - Impacts on Federal Programs:
 - Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) programs may face cuts or elimination.
 - Reduced federal focus on climate and equity initiatives.
 - Possible funding shifts in transportation and regulatory policies.
 - **Technical Assistance – Jordan Petrov, MORPC**
 - 2024 Recap:
 - Jefferson Township: Completed an active transportation study, prioritizing Blacklick Creek Trail alignment.
 - Franklin Township: Finalizing sidewalk and pedestrian safety enhancements.
 - 2025 Technical Assistance Awardees:
 - Village of Galena: Complete Streets Safety Audit to address increasing traffic and enhance downtown safety.
 - City of Gahanna: CIP Digitization & Publication for enhanced interdepartmental coordination using GIS.
 - City of Grove City: TSI Study of US-62, focusing on safety improvements and corridor coordination.
 - City of Hilliard: Trail Towns & Wayfinding Study to integrate local signage strategies with regional trails.

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Chris Amorose Groomes
Chair

Michelle Crandall
Vice Chair

Ben Kessler
Secretary

- Central Ohio Blueways – *Jonathan Miller, MORPC*
 - World Rivers Day Cleanup (September 28, 2024) removed 3,750 pounds of trash from regional waterways.
 - Working Groups Initiatives:
 - Environmental Stewardship: Developing an Invasive Species ID Guide and Onion Bag Project for litter control.
 - User Experience: Establishing a Hazard Removal Consortium for waterway obstructions.
 - Water Trail Designation: Advancing official recognition for Big Walnut Creek as a Water Trail.

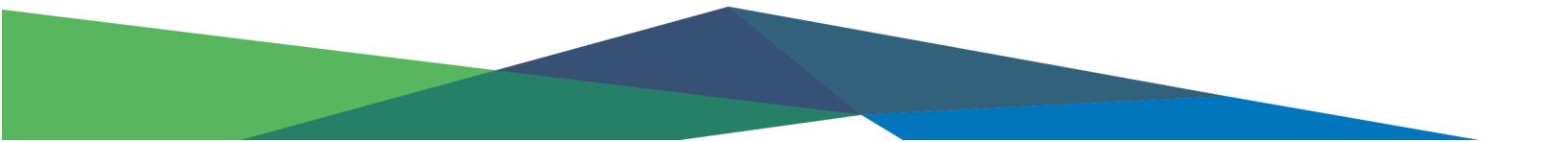
3) COG Working Group and Steering Committee Updates

- COG Board Project Updates – *Melinda Vonstein*
 - Wayfinding Project
 - Completed and available on the COG website.
 - COG Mapping Natural Assets
 - Technical Working Group finalizing data to support environmental conservation decisions.
 - Partnership with RAPID5 to integrate findings into regional greenway planning.
 - COG Detours and Reroutes Guidelines
 - Committee is finalizing a two-page detour guidance document, expected by year-end.
- Trail Development Working Group - *Kelly Scocco*
 - Regional Trail Vision Progress
 - 189 miles of proposed COG trails identified within the COTA Service Area (CSA).
 - 50 miles (26%) of the proposed network is funded for construction by 2030.
 - Key upcoming projects:
 - Hudson Urban Greenway Phase 1 to be completed by end of 2024.
 - Multiple TSI and MORPC-attributable projects advancing across the region.
 - Next Steps:
 - Identifying new regional priority trail corridors for vision updates in January 2025.
- Greenway Planning Studio Regional Collaboration Meetings – *Sam Smith*
 - Regional meetings held in southeast, northeast, southwest, and northwest quadrants to update the COG vision.
 - Key takeaways:
 - Increased community interest in trail-to-town connectivity.
 - Fairfield County highlighted as a regional trail expansion priority.
 - Upcoming sessions to refine project proposals for 2025 and beyond.
- Trail Towns Working Group – *Laura Ball*
 - Logo and Brand Development
 - New branding initiatives underway to enhance trail town identity.
 - Outerspatial
 - Exploring digital mapping options to improve public engagement.

- 
- 2024 Goals
 - Increasing local business participation in the Trail Towns program.
 - Strengthening community outreach and tourism initiatives.

4) **Other Business** – *Board Members*

5) **Closing** – *Mike Andrako*



Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
Hybrid Meeting

Central Ohio Greenways Board

November 20, 2024, 10:00 am

Members Present

- Chair Mike Andrako, Franklin County Engineer's Office
- Laura Ball, City of Westerville
- Jody Dzurainin, Ohio to Erie Trail
- Bertie Fields, Black Girls do Bike
- Adrienne Joly, City of New Albany
- Dan Kaderly, Metro Parks
- Kari Kauffman, Experience Columbus
- Tamisha Matus, Union County Health Dept
- Angela Mitchell, Black Women in Nature
- Eric Oberg, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
- Andrew Overbeck, MKSK
- JM Rayburn, City of Dublin
- Letty Schamp, City of Hilliard
- Kelly Scocco, City of Columbus
- Kimberly Shields, Grove City
- Zachary Sunderland, COTA
- Olivia Toth, Knox County Convention & Visitors Bureau
- Mara Villaseca, Knowlton School of Architecture
- Brad Westall, City of Columbus

Staff Present

- Lauren Cardoni
- Lynn Kaufman
- Jessica Kuenzli
- Jonathan Miller
- Jordan Petrov
- Kyle Probert
- Melinda Vonstein

Public Present

- David Poole, CTP Sinto America



CENTRAL OHIO GREENWAYS

Board Meeting

November 20, 2024



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LEADERSHIP IN MOBILITY AWARD – CONGRATS MIKE ANDRAKO!



[2024 Leadership in Mobility Award- Mike Andrako - YouTube](#)



Collaborative Achievement in Sustainability Award TRAIL TOWN WORKING GROUP!



[2024 Collaborative Achievement in Sustainability Award- Trail Towns Central Ohio - YouTube](#)

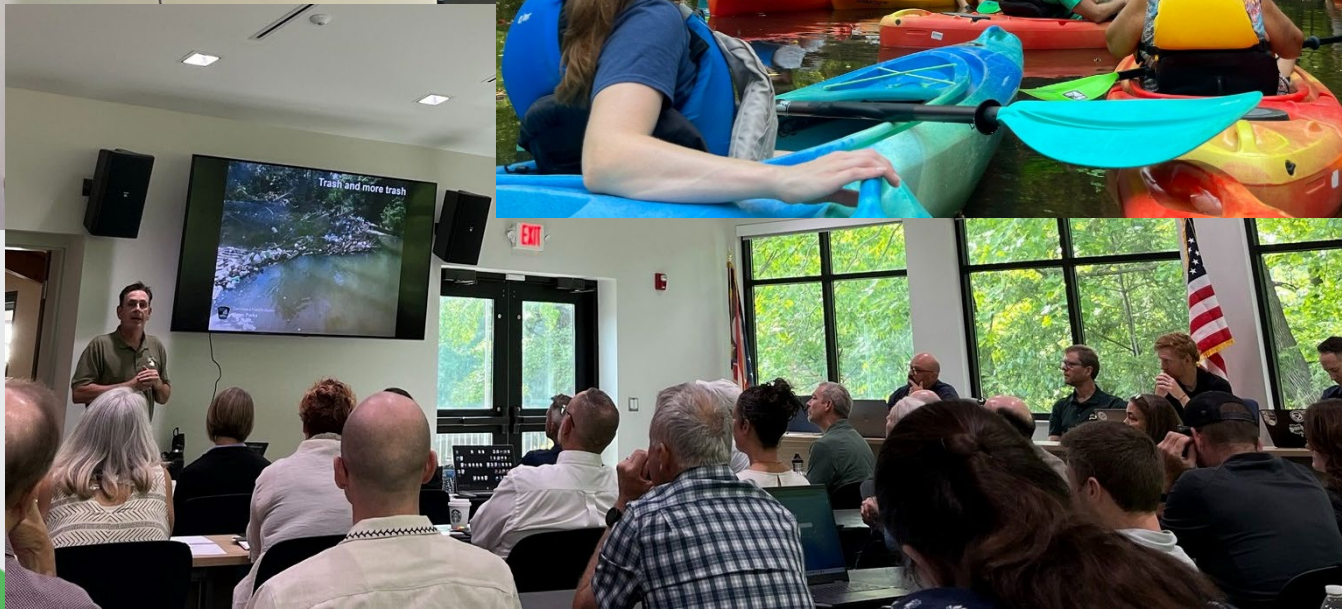
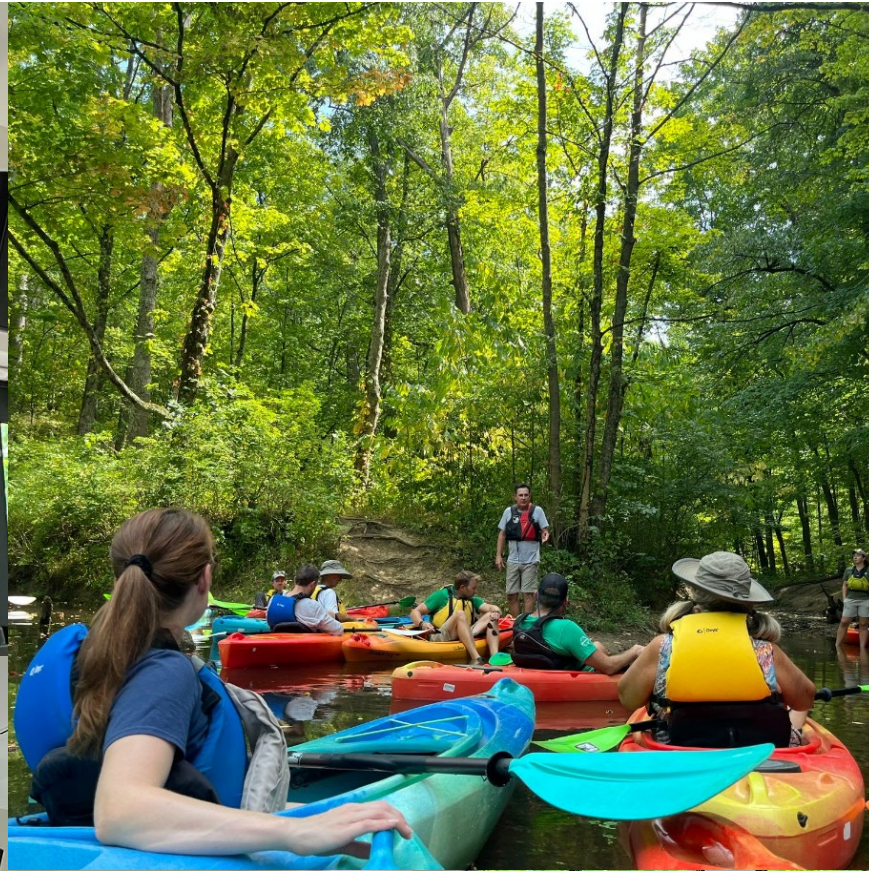
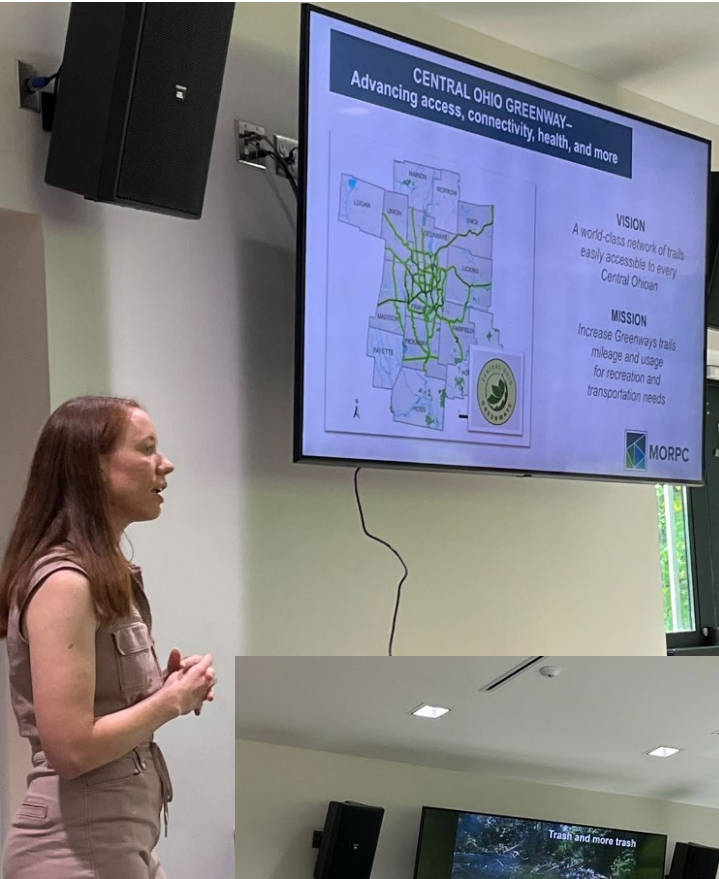


OPENING ACCESS TO THE REGION'S BLUE & GREENWAYS

Summer COG Forum

Ideas for the Winter COG Forum?

Submit them to Melinda Vonstein by
October 31, 2024



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

KYLE PROBERT, MPA

Public Policy Coordinator

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Kyle Probert – Public Policy Coordinator



POST-ELECTION RECAP:

Statehouse

- **House: 65-34 GOP Majority**
- **Senate: 24-9 GOP Majority**
- **House Speaker Jason Stephens not seeking gavel again**



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Kyle Probert – Public Policy Coordinator



POST-ELECTION RECAP:

Congress

- **GOP to control House and Senate by narrow margins**
- **Senator Sherrod Brown defeated by Bernie Moreno**
- **Senator J.D. Vance elected VP**
- **All Central Ohio incumbents won**
- **New Congressman in OH-02, Dave Taylor**
- **Federal budget deadline December 20th, CR possible**
- **Re-authorization of 2017 Tax Cuts a top GOP priority**



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Kyle Probert – Public Policy Coordinator



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WHAT TO EXPECT IN 2025...

From the federal government:

- **Programs and grants created under IRA, IIJA are likely to be at risk of sunset, elimination, and/or clawback.**
- **Reduced emphasis from federal government on climate, equity**
- **Regulatory reform, tax and spending cuts**

From MORPC:

- **A new Public Policy Agenda reaffirming our guiding principles**
- **Strategic coordination with our allies to achieve positive outcomes**

KYLE PROBERT, MPA

Public Policy Coordinator

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MID-OHIO REGIONAL
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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

JORDAN PETROV

Senior Planner

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

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2024 Recap

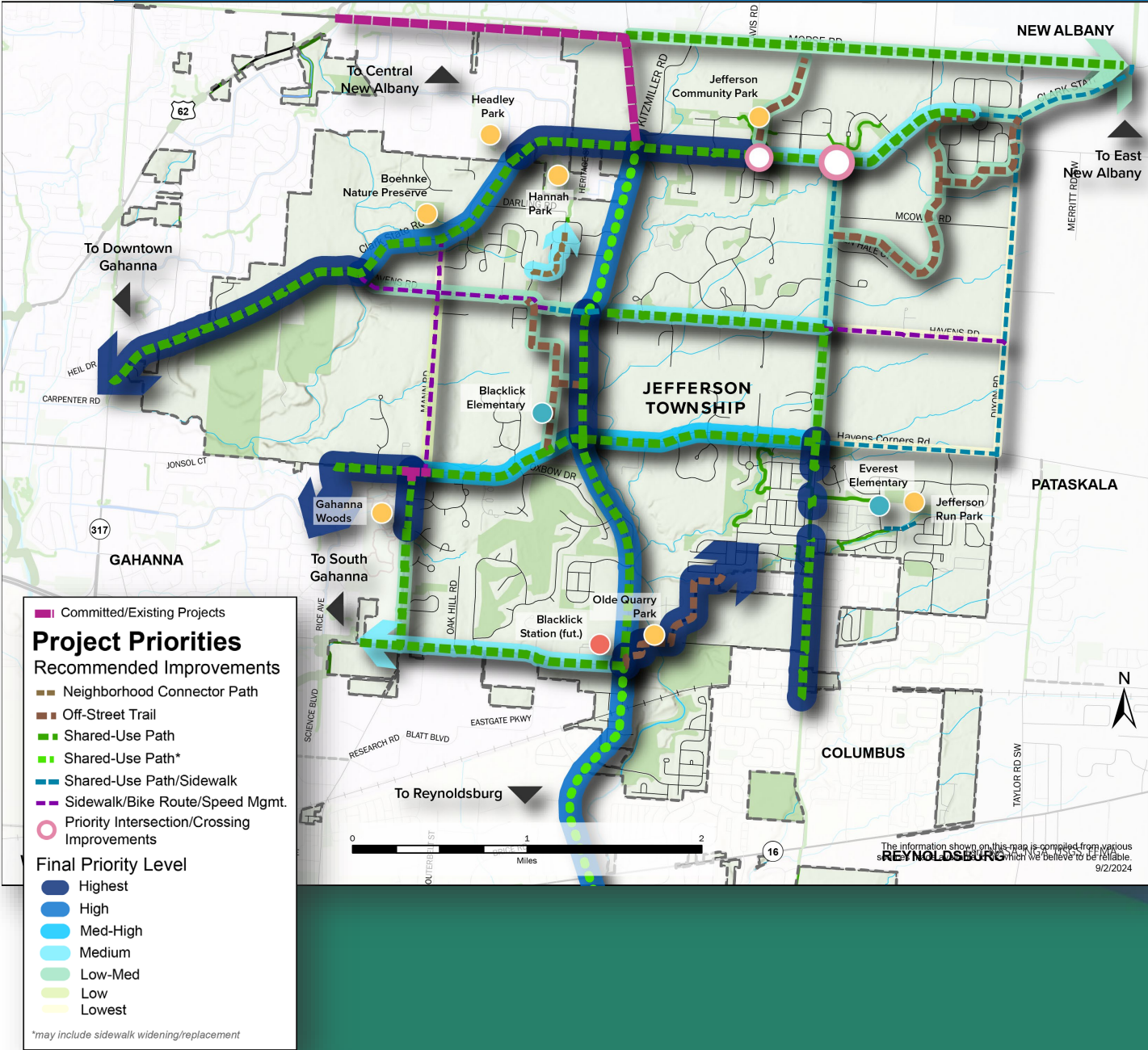
- Active Transportation Project Prioritization

- Jefferson Township

- Complete!
- Vision Network
- Next Steps
- COG:
 - Blacklick Creek Trail – Alignment, funding, partnership
 - Clark State Road – COG Trail potential?

- Franklin Township

- Wrapping up
- Focus on sidewalks
- COG: Access to Camp Chase Trail



2025 Technical Assistance Program



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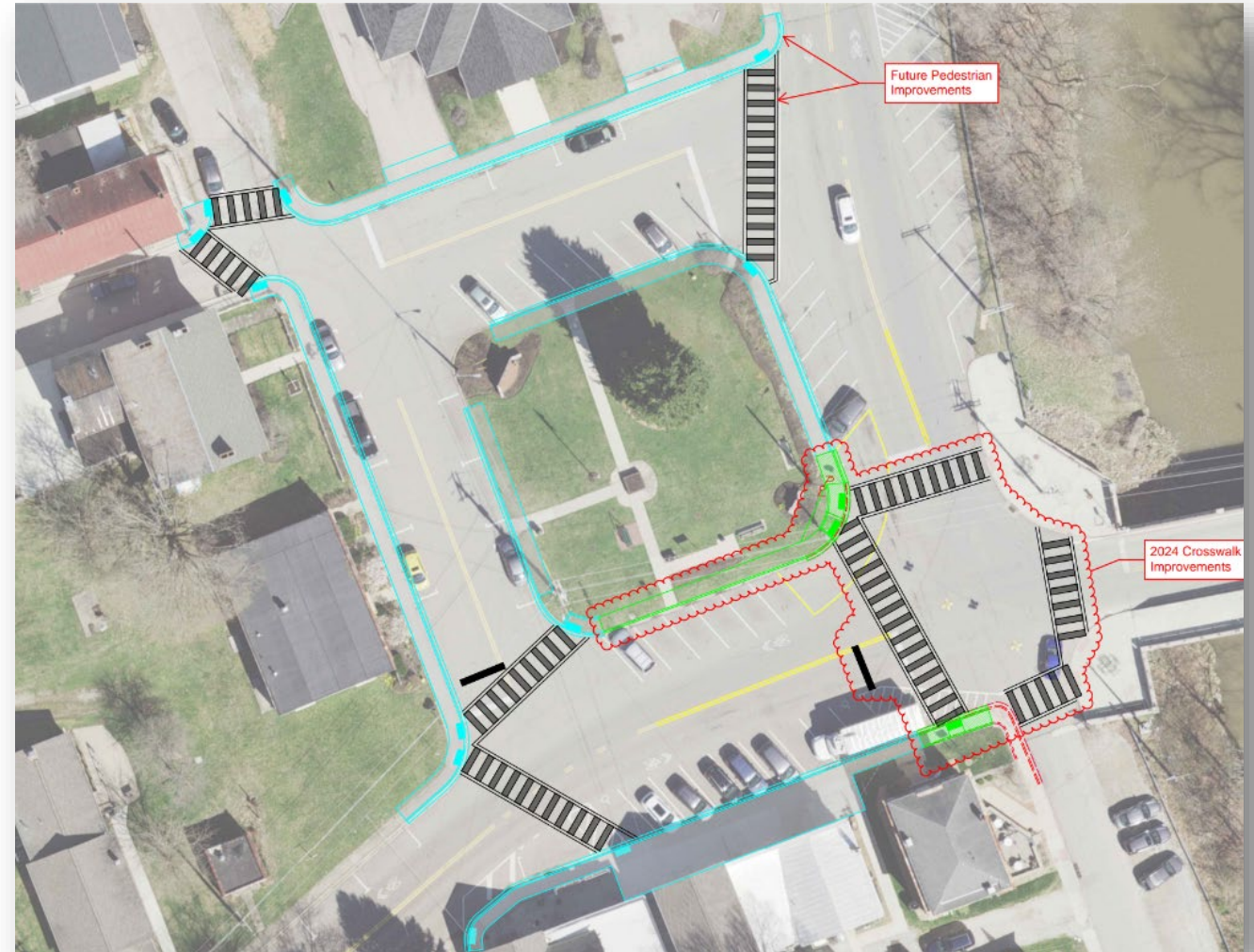
Awardees	Selected Activity
Village of Galena	Complete Streets Safety Audit
City of Hilliard	Trail Towns & Wayfinding Study
City of Gahanna	Capital Improvement Plan Digitization & Publication
City of Grove City	TSI Study of US-62

Galena: Complete Streets Safety Audit



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- Increased traffic nearby
 - Intel, development in Delaware County
- Enhance safety in downtown area
 - Lots of older adults
 - Preliminary plans
- Expanded scope – CS audit of whole village
 - Multimodal, safety-focused response



Gahanna: CIP Digitization & Publication



- GIS platform to digitize Gahanna's CIP
 - Facilitate coordination b/t departmental CIPs
 - Enhance opportunities for inter-jurisdictional coordination
 - Public-facing CIP platform
- Ensure cohesion with decision-making processes
 - Following ATP
 - In parallel with Mobility Plan

Grove City: TSI Study of US-62



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- Study Area: US-62 south of I-270 in Grove City
 - High-traffic
 - Significant crash history, including ped/bike
- Northern section: focus on coordination
 - Urbancrest, ODOT
 - Post-TA feasibility study scope
- Southern section: focus of study
 - Safety improvements
 - Re-allocation opportunities
 - TSI Project Development

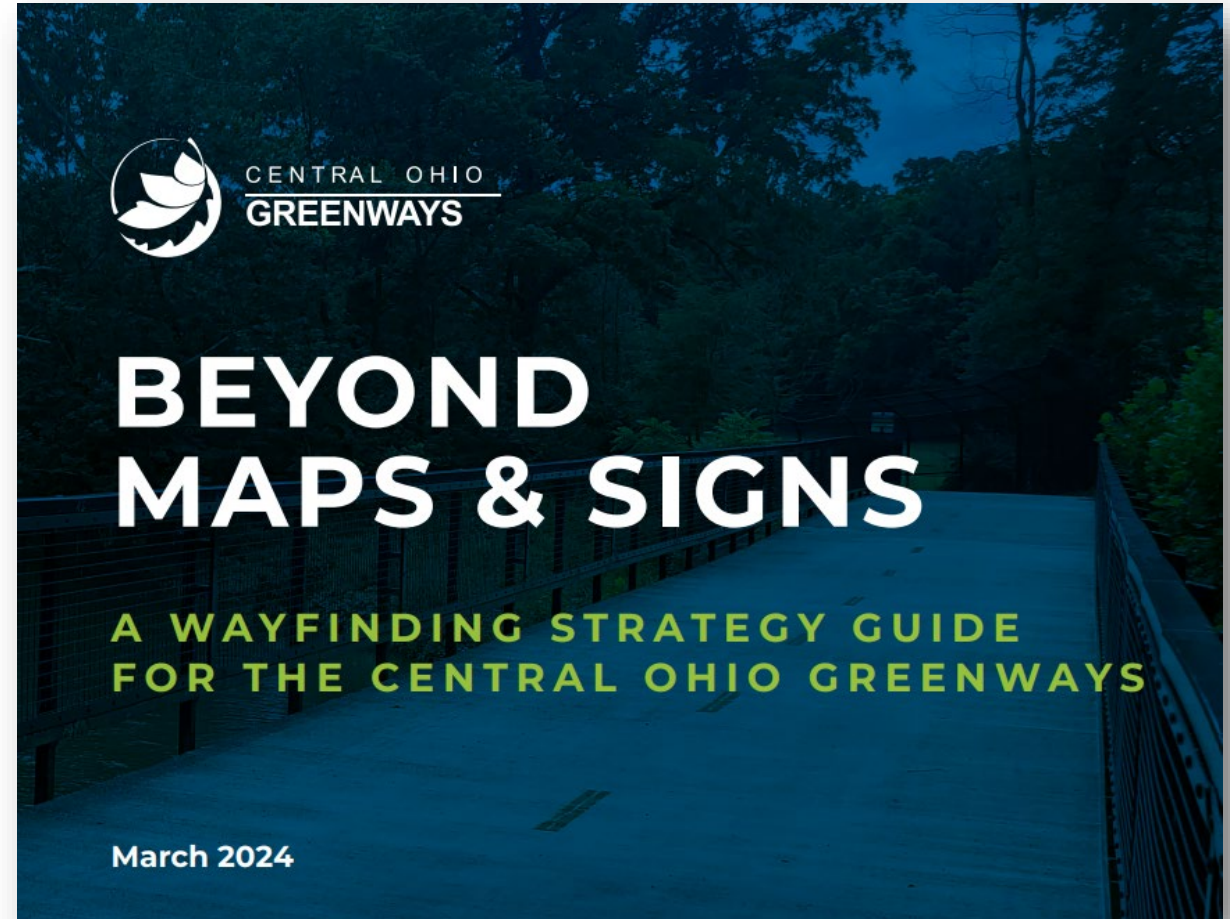


Hilliard: Trail Towns & Wayfinding Study



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- **COG Focus**
- Local application of Wayfinding Strategy
 - "Pilot Study"
 - Inventory of key destinations & amenities
- Ongoing local wayfinding project
 - Meld recommendations with COG Wayfinding Strategy
- Hilliard signage and Trail Town strategy
 - Local business relationships



REGIONAL QUADRANT MEETINGS

SAM SMITH

Associate Planner

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

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CENTRAL OHIO BLUEWAYS

JONATHAN MILLER, MPA, AICP, GISP

Principal Planner

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CENTRAL OHIO BLUEWAYS UPDATE

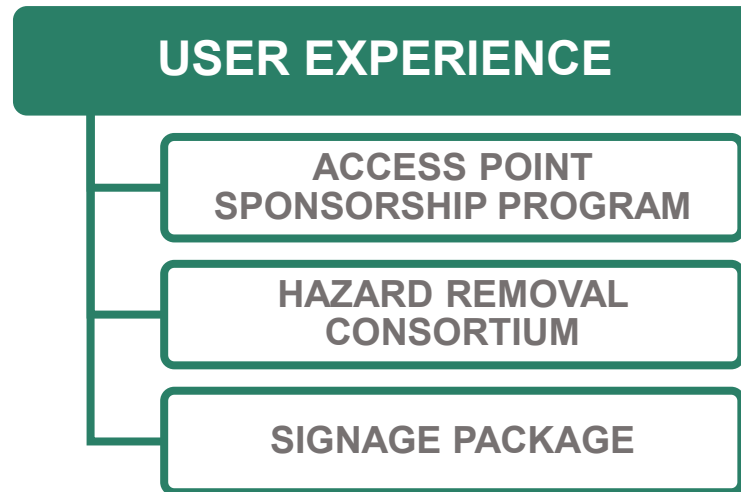
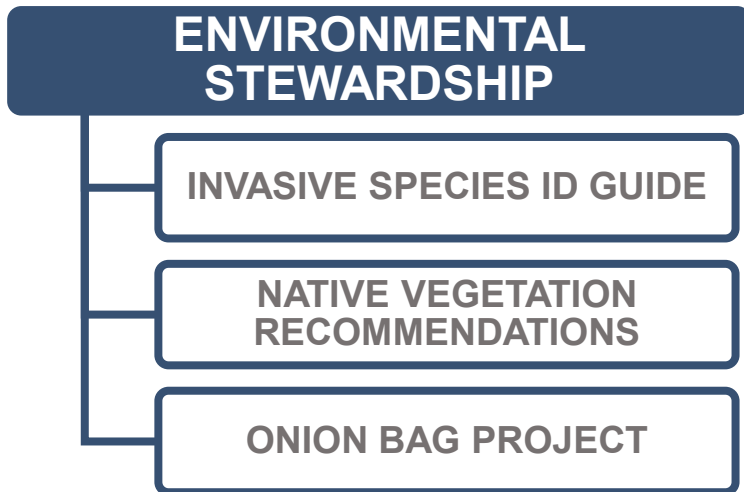


WORLD RIVERS DAY CLEANUP

- 3,750 POUNDS OF TRASH REMOVED



WORKING GROUP PROJECTS



Contact Jonathan Miller (jmiller@morpc.org) for more information.



CONSULTANT SERVICES PROGRAM



Assistance with the RFP and Consultant Procurement Process for Planning & Zoning Related Activities

RFP Clearinghouse for all member community projects

PLANNER POOL PROGRAM



Assistance with Smaller-Scale Projects and Pre-Planning Activities

Short-term temporary planning staffing assistance

COG WORKING GROUP & STEERING COMMITTEE UPDATES



COG WORKING GROUP & STEERING COMMITTEE UPDATES

Wayfinding

- Complete
- Available on the COG Website
- COG Staff available to share the results
- MORPC technical assistance available to help implement

Mapping Natural Assets

- Technical Working Group meeting end of July
- Project completion anticipated in fall 2024

Detours & Closures

- Committee has meet twice to provide input on detour designs and detour communications
- Communities may request support from COG TD working group to design detours in the future
- Two page guidance anticipated fall 2024

Trail Development Working Group

- Group is subdivided into rural and urban groups
- Quadrant meetings anticipated in October, November & December
- Will recommend updates to the COG Board in January

Trail Towns Working Group

- Branding
- Mapping
- Outdoor Trails Pass



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TRAIL DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP

WORKING GROUP CO-CHAIRS

KELLY SCOCCO, City of Columbus

TAMISHA MATUS, Union County



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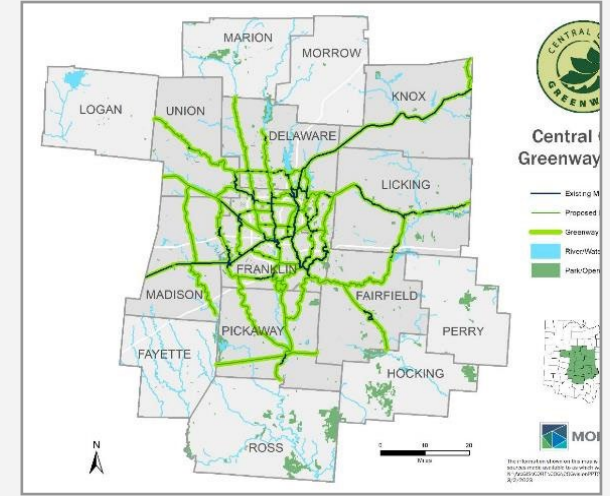
TRAIL TOWN WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES



Regional Collaboration Meetings

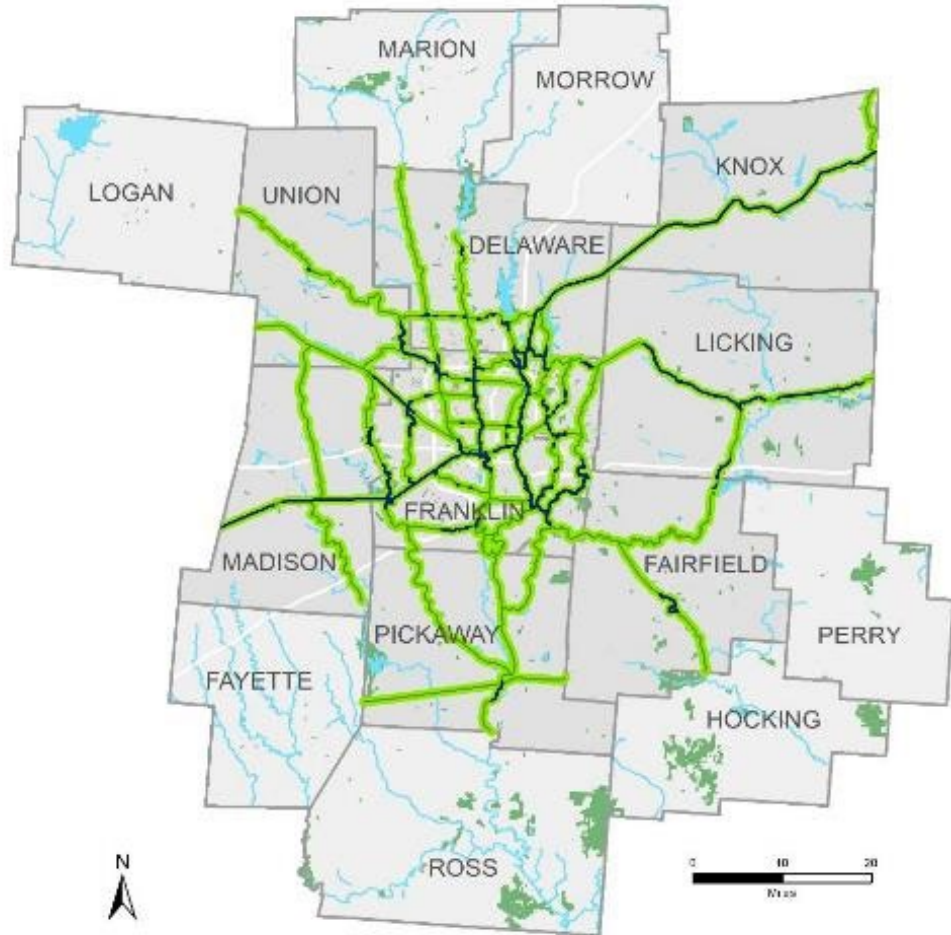


Regional Trail Vision Progress



Update the Regional Trail Vision

CENTRAL OHIO GREENWAY— REGIONAL TRAIL VISION



VISION

*A world-class network of trails
easily accessible to every
Central Ohioan*

MISSION

*Increase Greenways trails
mileage and usage
for recreation and
transportation needs*

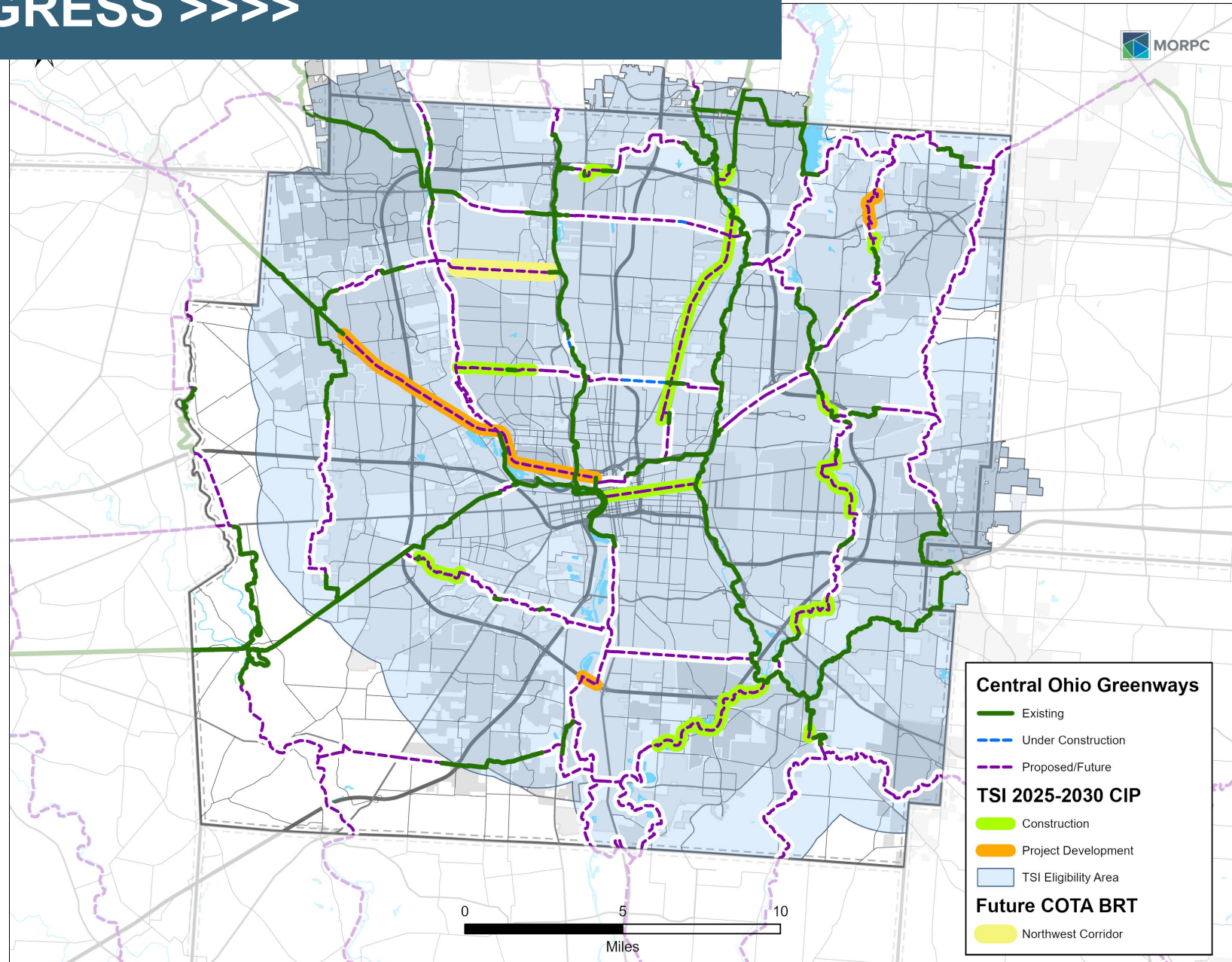


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REGIONAL TRAIL VISION PROGRESS >>>>

LINKUS advances COG

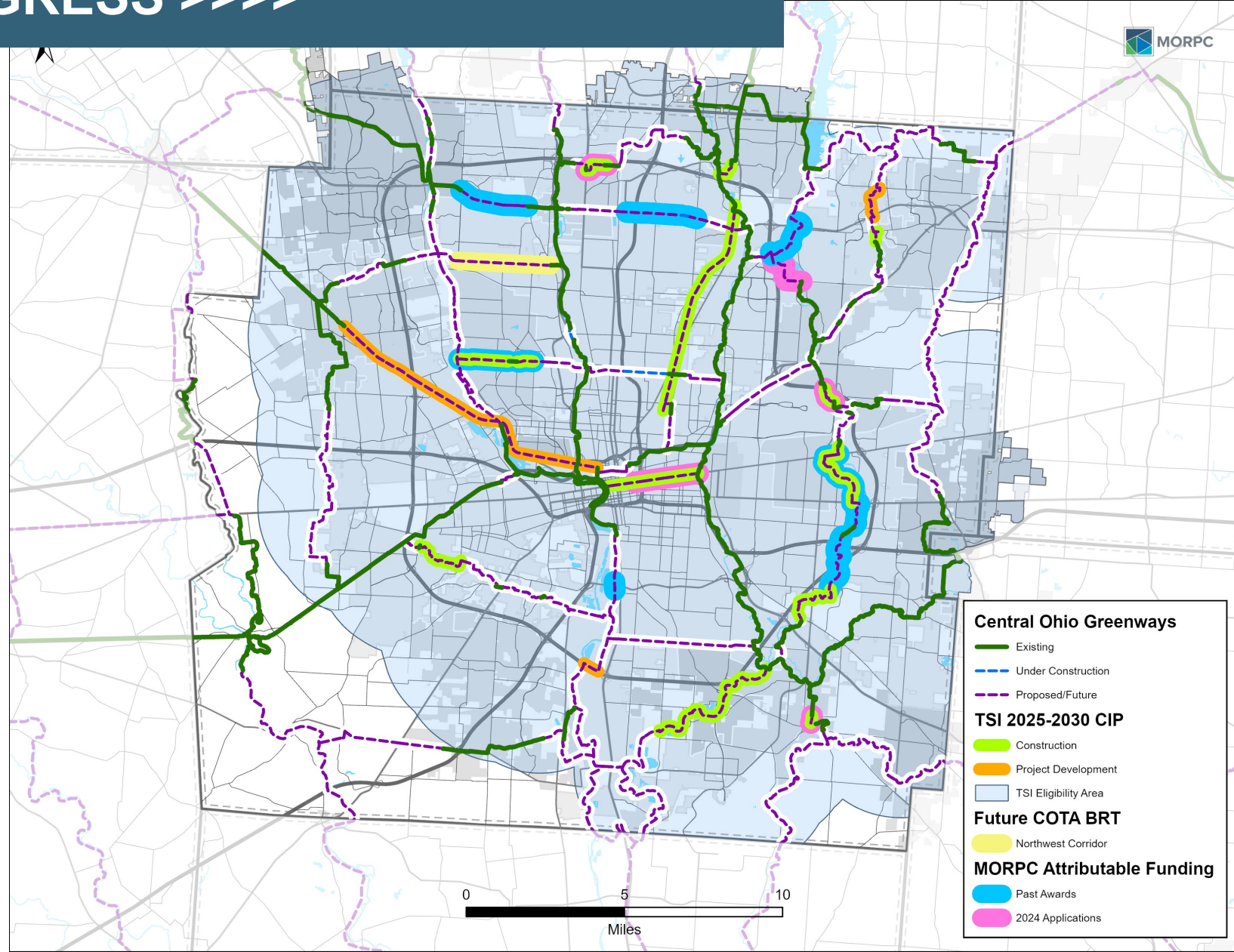
- 189 miles of proposed COG trails in the COTA Service Area (CSA)
- 175 of these are eligible for TSI funding (i.e., within 3-miles of a fixed-route transit stop)
- 37 miles (**20%**) are in the 2025-2030 TSI CIP
 - 27 (**15%**) of these are slated for construction by 2030
 - 10 (5%) of these (mostly Heritage Trail) have project development funding



REGIONAL TRAIL VISION PROGRESS >>>>

MORPC Attributable Funds advances COG

- 15 miles (8%) have received 2020 or 2022 Attributable Funding awards
 - 5 of these are also in the TSI CIP
- 5.3 miles are in outstanding 2024 applications (*3.7-mi. overlap w/TSI*)
- TSI and past AF awards have funded **50 miles, or 26%**, of the COG vision in the CSA for construction or project development by 2030.
 - 40 miles, or 21%, are specifically slated for construction by 2030



CENTRAL OHIO GREENWAYS

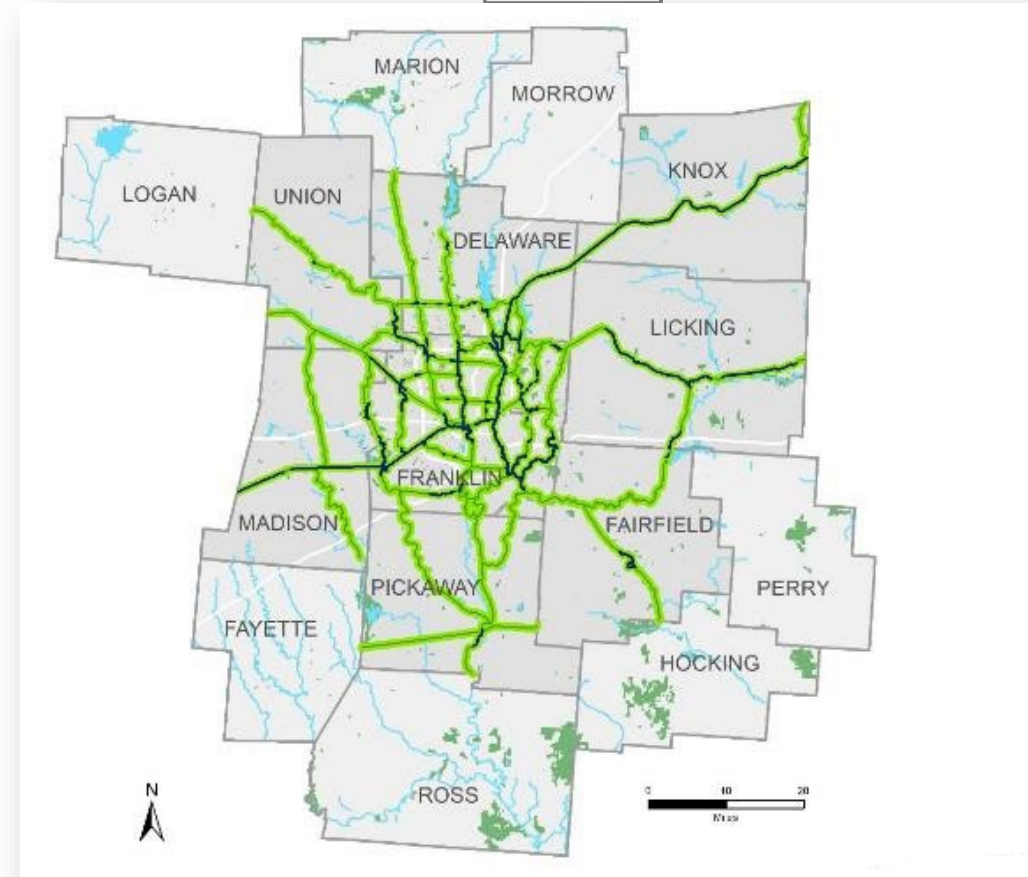
TRAIL OF REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE



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- A Trail of Regional Significance is a primary trail, predominantly off-street, multi-jurisdictional, and connects people to major destination points.

These trails have a well maintained, improved surface and should prioritize comfort and safety for trail users. In locations where Trails of Regional Significance intersect or conflict with vehicular traffic, the trail should be emphasized as highly as practicable. Landscaping and buffering should be incorporated into the design of these trails. Access to amenities, such as restrooms, drinking fountains, and parking should be provided periodically. Wayfinding, snow & ice removal, maintenance, and 24/7 access of Trails of Regional Significance are critical to ensure that reliable and equitable access is provided to all users



CENTRAL OHIO GREENWAYS

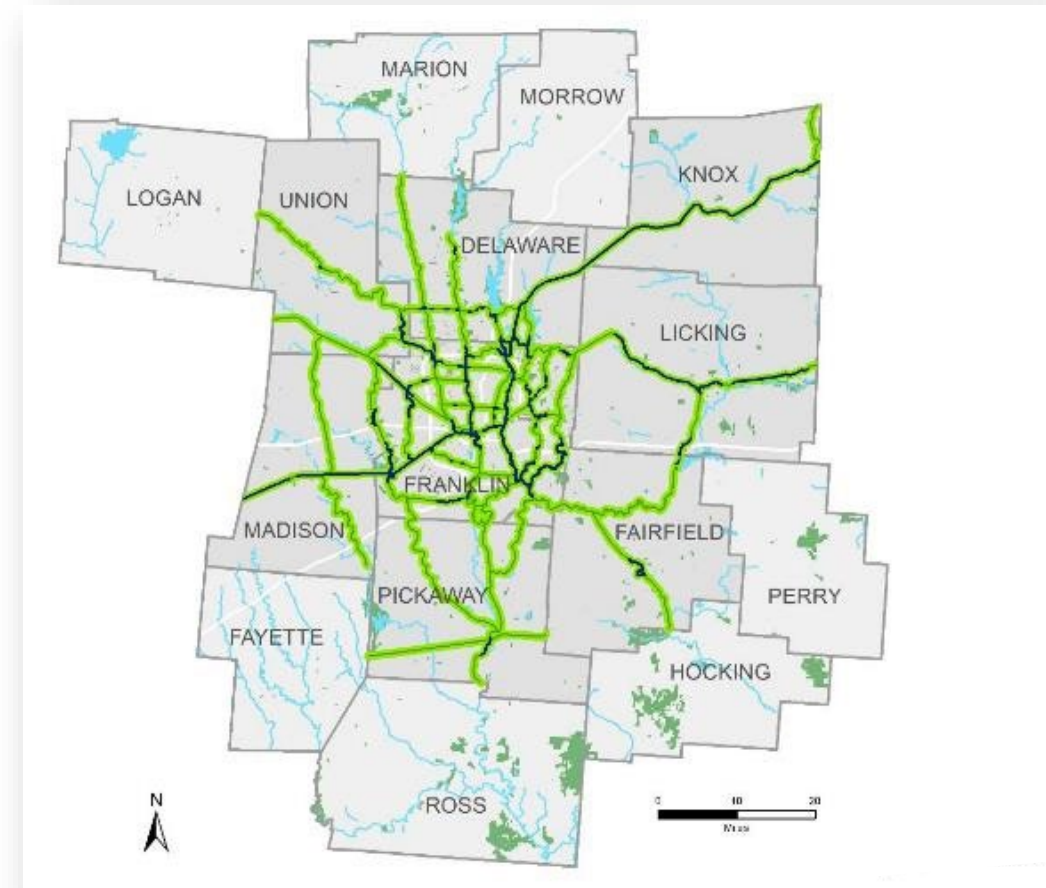
GATEWAY OF REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE



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Trailheads are the backbone of any trail wayfinding system. As Gateways to both trails and the places they run through, trailheads have extraordinary capacity to influence trail users' wayfinding experience – and thereby their overall experience of the trails.

A Gateway of Regional Significance is a premier trailhead located along a Trail of Regional Significance that provides and/or connects trail users to amenities, services, and information necessary to navigate the trail system.



PREMIER TRAILHEADS | COMMUNITY GATEWAY



MORPC

Trailheads are the backbone of any trail wayfinding system. As gateways to both trails and the places they run through, trailheads have extraordinary capacity to influence trail users' wayfinding experience — and thereby their overall experience of trails. This chapter reviews the current state of wayfinding support offered via trailheads along the Ohio to Erie Trail in Central Ohio and provides recommendations for optimizing these spaces to better serve trail users with the information and amenities they need.

FEATURE REQUIREMENTS	ACCESS POINTS	TRAILHEAD LEVELS		
		BASIC	ENHANCED	PREMIER
Access to Streets & Roadways	✓	✓	✓	✓
Information Kiosk/Map		✓	✓	✓
Bike Parking		✓	✓	✓
Seating		✓	✓	✓
Transit Access*			✓	✓
Sidewalk Access			✓	✓
Restrooms			✓	✓
Water Access			✓	✓
Placemaking Elements				✓
Shelter(s)				✓
Facilities Staff				✓
Unique Design				✓

*Where applicable; rural areas may not have transit.

PREMIER TRAILHEADS | COMMUNITY GATEWAY



Westerville

Hanby Park Westerville,
OH



Howard

Rotary Park, Howard OH



London

Prairie Grass Trailhead



Dublin

Riverside Crossing Park



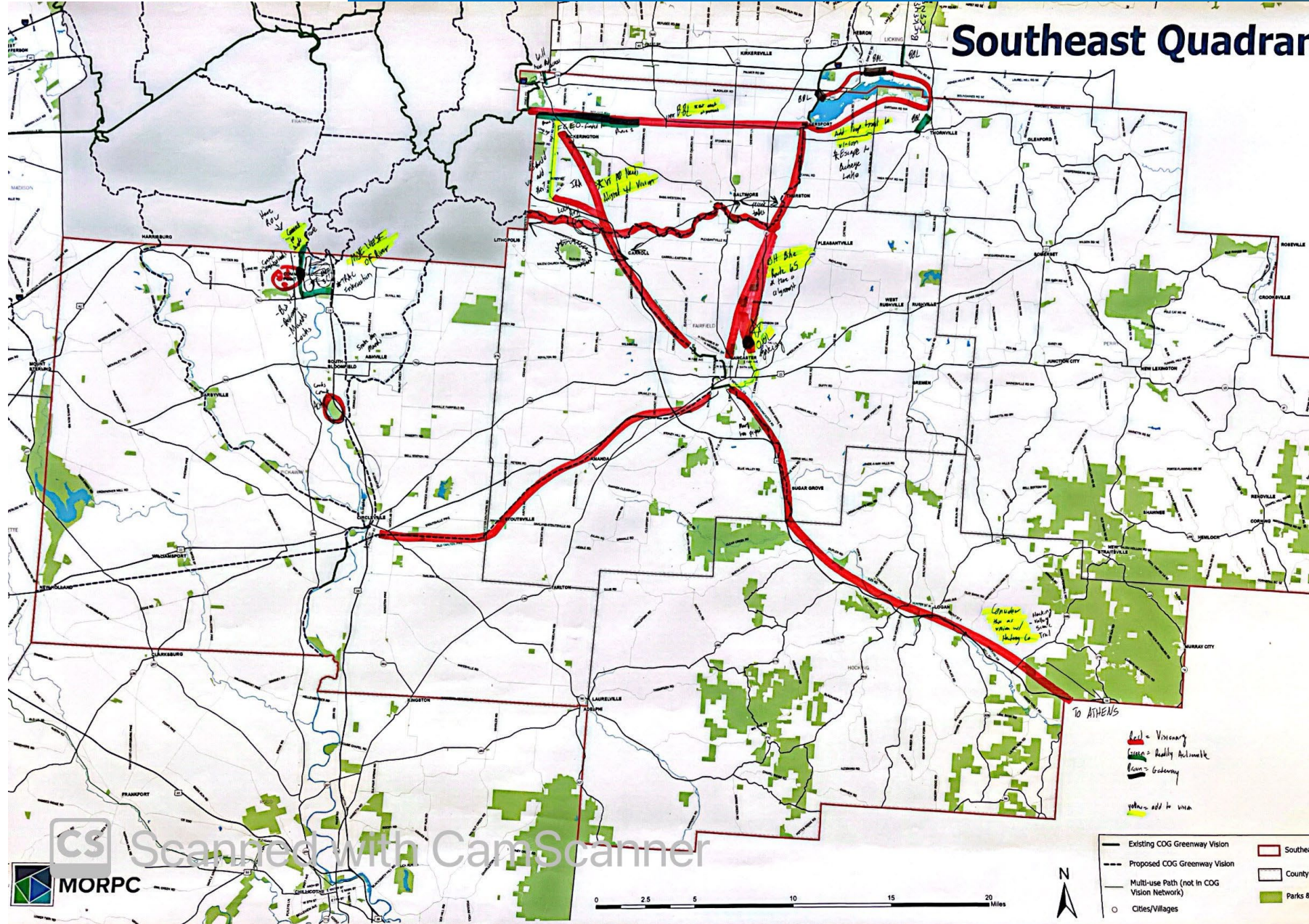
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REGIONAL COLLABORATION

- Trails and Active Transportation Collaboration Meetings
✓ Complete

- Greenway Planning Studio Workshops

- Southeast: Nov 15
✓ Complete
- Northeast: Nov 21
- Southwest: Nov 22
- Northwest: Dec 11
- Visionary, Readily Achievable, and Gateway Projects
- Updating the COG Vision



TRAIL TOWNS WORKING GROUP

WORKING GROUP CO-CHAIRS

KARI KAUFFMAN, Experience
Columbus

LAURA BALL, City of Westerville

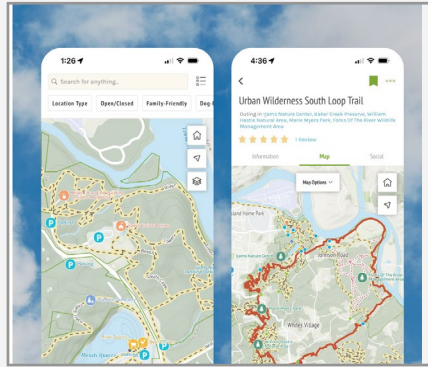


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TRAIL TOWN WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES



Branding



Outerspatial



Grants



Gateways

MELINDA VONSTEIN, AICP

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MID-OHIO REGIONAL
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Mike Andrako, P.E.

COG Board Chair
Mobility Engineer
Franklin County Engineers Office

